

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An air bag sensor module for a vehicle comprising:
a base having an aperture extending therethrough, said aperture having a retaining portion;
a sensor secured to said base for sensing vibrations caused by a crash of the vehicle;
a fastener having a shaft with a head and a threaded portion opposite said head with said threaded portion temporarily retained within said retaining portion in a shipping position, said threaded portion having a minor diameter with said shaft portion having a shaft diameter less than said minor diameter.
2. The module according to claim 1, wherein said retaining portion includes a depth and said shaft includes a length greater than said depth.
3. The module according to claim 1, wherein said threaded portion comprises self-tapping threads.
4. The module according to claim 3, wherein said base includes retaining material disposed within said retaining portion, said self-tapping threads cutting through said retaining material when moved from said shipping position to an installed position.
5. The module according to claim 4, wherein said base is molded about said fastener.

6. The module according to claim 5, wherein said base comprises plastic.
7. The module according to claim 1, wherein said base comprises metal.
8. The module according to claim 1, wherein said aperture includes a pocket adjacent to said retaining portion opposite said head, said threaded portion being disposed within said pocket in a transient position.
9. The module according to claim 1, wherein said retaining portion includes a retaining portion minor diameter greater than said shaft diameter.
10. An air bag sensor module fastening device for a vehicle comprising:
 - a vehicle mounting structure having an internally threaded member;
 - a base having an aperture extending therethrough and aligned with said internally threaded member, said aperture having a retaining portion;
 - a sensor secured to said base for sensing vibrations caused by a crash of the vehicle;
 - a fastener for securing said base to said vehicle mounting structure, said fastener having a shaft with a head and a threaded portion opposite said head with said threaded portion temporarily retained within said retaining portion in a shipping position, and said threaded portion being disposed outside of said retaining portion in an installed position in which said threaded portion is received in said internally threaded member to secure said base to said vehicle mounting structure.

11. The device according to claim 10, wherein said threaded portion includes a minor diameter with said shaft portion having a shaft diameter less than said minor diameter.

12. The device according to claim 10, wherein said internally threaded member comprises a nut secured to said vehicle mounting structure and aligned with a hole in said vehicle mounting structure.

13. The device according to claim 10, wherein said retaining portion includes a depth and said shaft includes a length greater than said depth.

14. The device according to claim 10, wherein said threaded portion comprises self-tapping threads.

15. The device according to claim 14, wherein said base includes retaining material disposed within said retaining portion, said self-tapping threads cutting through said retaining material when moved from said shipping position to an installed position.

16. The device according to claim 10, wherein said aperture includes a pocket adjacent to said retaining portion opposite said head, said threaded portion being disposed within said pocket in a transient position.

17. The device according to claim 10, wherein said retaining portion includes a retaining portion minor diameter greater than said shaft diameter.